

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY UPDATE
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1. [Ambassador: U.S. Won't Stand By While Russia Destroys Peace](#) (05-12-2014)

This essay by U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom Matthew Barzun was first published in the online version of the Daily Mail on May 10.

**America Will Not Stand Idly By While Putin and His Cronies Destroy Peace in Europe
by Matthew Barzun**

Standing up to violence does not require that we be violent ourselves – but it does demand that we stand up. This is precisely what America, in close partnership with Britain and our other allies, is doing in response to the mounting crisis in Ukraine.

We are standing up for the rights of Ukrainians to live freely in a stable and sovereign nation. And we are standing up to Russia's indefensible duplicity, bullying and aggression.

Indisputably, Moscow is fomenting and directing violence in Ukraine. These actions are proof that Vladimir Putin's Russia is playing by a different set of rules and that it seeks to change the security landscape of eastern and central Europe through force and intimidation.

Ukraine's dismemberment by external forces would be a serious blow to the peaceful global order. We will not sit idly by and let it happen.

A lesson of the 20th Century was that peace demands that human dignity is protected and sovereign borders respected. It is a lesson we have not forgotten.

Our approach is driven by a determination to defuse the conflict and encourage dialogue. Our transatlantic alliance, which has guaranteed security in Europe for seven decades, is being tested. We must not falter.

As US Secretary of State John Kerry has said, the United States is prepared to do what we need to do to uphold it.

The first of our immediate priorities is to continue our strong support for Ukraine through constitutional reform, anti-corruption measures, and economic aid. This will help the people and increase their trust in government and faith in the political process.

We are also strongly supporting free and fair presidential elections on May 25 as the best route to political and economic stability.

The vast majority of Ukrainians, including two-thirds of the public in eastern Ukraine, want this election to proceed.

There are 100 independent observers on the ground to monitor the lead-up to the election, with up to 1,000 more being deployed to ensure that the poll meets the highest international standard.

This is how we want countries to determine their futures – through the ballot, not the bullet. And we call on Russia to endorse Ukraine's democratic system – to support the right of all Ukrainians to participate in the elections, to refrain from any interference with election preparations, and to use their influence on the armed militants who are taking steps to interfere with that process.

Our second objective is to hold Putin and his Kremlin cronies to account. Some argue that Ukraine is experiencing only a domestic political crisis which has, regrettably, turned violent. Unsurprisingly, Russia has been the leading voice touting this narrative. The facts tell otherwise.

International observers confirm that there was no threat to Russian-speaking Ukrainians, the crude pretext for Russian involvement. Equally, violent separatists who have engaged in kidnapping, torture and killings have been carrying papers showing that they come from Crimea or from Russia.

They make little effort to pretend they are acting independently. Russia's claim to have no influence over the violent separatists whom they are funding, arming and directing is not credible.

Others suggest that the actions of the Ukrainian government and the separatists are comparable. That is not the case. The post-Yanukovich government in Kiev has taken many steps towards de-escalation and is actively reaching out to all Ukrainians.

It has sent an amnesty bill to parliament to give extremists a chance to stand down. It has dismantled barricades and opened streets in Kiev to restore normality. It has guaranteed rights to use of the Russian language.

And it has offered solutions to the demands of those seeking a more decentralised Ukraine. Russian-backed separatists have offered nothing but continuing violence and destabilisation.

We expect to see another example of this today as pro-Russian separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk attempt to stage contrived and bogus independence referendums.

This latest development is very concerning. It is the Crimea playbook all over again. We will refuse to recognise the result of this illegal effort to further divide Ukraine.

Even Putin pulled his support for these referendums, perhaps because he too realised that they would be unconvincing Russian-sponsored political theatre.

Whatever the reason, this was a positive step. But it is not enough. Much more action is needed from Russia to reverse its destructive course.

It must call on separatists to put down their arms, and to join the international community in supporting presidential elections.

So far, Russia has chosen to intensify instability instead of working with us to defuse the crisis – notably by failing to fulfil the commitments that it made in Geneva on April 17.

From day one, Ukraine undertook to implement both the spirit and the substance of what was laid out in that agreement. Yet not one single step has been taken by Russia that seriously attempts to live by the spirit or law of what they signed up to.

The reaction of the US, Britain and the EU to Moscow's malign interventions in Ukraine has been to introduce calibrated, comprehensive and co-ordinated sanctions. We are raising the economic costs on Russia.

And this week, John Kerry will be in London to discuss with William Hague and their EU counterparts what appropriate next steps might be. Were Putin to take steps that hinder or attempt to prevent the elections, he will bring more costs on Russia.

There has, however, been criticism of our response. One British paper belittled it by depicting a shirtless Putin on board a tank driving past a sign which said: 'Stop. Or the West will put you on the naughty step.'

This characterisation of our approach ignores the potency of this 21st Century use of force. No longer is the choice between hand grenades or hand-wringing.

Sanctions are making Russia pay a steep price for its actions. Its credit rating has been downgraded to one step above 'junk' status, stock prices and economic growth are weakening, and the central bank has spent close to \$30 billion (£18 billion) to prop up the rouble.

Unless Putin changes course, the current nationalistic fever in Russia will soon break. When it does, it will give way to a cold realisation of the profound economic costs of his policies.

This crisis is one of his own choosing. Now he faces another choice: to leave Ukraine in peace and work with us to create a strong Ukraine – one that is not a buffer between East and West, but a bridge to both.

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[Ambassador Punke at WTO on Russian Trade Measures](#)

2. DOD Official: 16 U.S. Troops on Search Team for Nigerian Girls (05-12-2014)

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 12, 2014 – A total of 16 military personnel from U.S. Africa Command have joined the interdisciplinary team led by the State Department at the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria, to help in finding hundreds of kidnapped girls, a Pentagon spokesman said today.

Members of the extremist group Boko Haram abducted more than 200 girls from the Government Secondary boarding school in the town of Chibok on the night of April 14. Several countries, including the United States, have offered help.

On May 6, President Barack Obama said on NBC's "Today" program that the immediate priority is finding the girls, and then the world must address the broader problem of organizations like Boko Haram that "can cause such havoc in people's day-to-day lives."

At the Pentagon today, Army Col. Steve Warren said the group of 16 military personnel includes experts in communications, logistics, civil affairs, operations and intelligence.

"Their role is to assess the situation, advise and assist the Nigerian government in their efforts to respond to this crisis situation, and find the young women kidnapped by Boko Haram," the colonel added.

A majority of the group members were staff officers and personnel from the embassy's Office of Security Cooperation, whose mission is to enhance the long-term bilateral defense relationship between Nigeria and the United States. The rest came into the country from outside Africa, he said.

The Office of Security Cooperation in Nigeria is the largest in Africa, Warren said.

"We have a total of 50 or 60 military personnel assigned to the embassy there as part of the country team," the colonel added, and 16 now are devoted to the interdisciplinary team to find the girls.

The Defense Department has no plans at this point, he said, to put more personnel into the country.

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3. Hagel: The United States Remains an Unrivaled Power (05-11-2014)

By Terri Moon Cronk
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 11, 2014 – While some around the world believe the United States is a weakening superpower, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel today defended America as the world's dominant force.

"I have seen some of that perception, yes," Hagel said, during an interview on the ABC program "This Week with George Stephanopoulos". "But we are still the dominant power. No one's in our universe, whether you apply a metric or measurement of an economic power or military power."

But that doesn't mean the United States can solve every problem alone, he said.

"No nation can do that. I do think there's a sense out there by some that somehow America has powers eroding, or we're not going to use our power, or we're too timid about our power. I think we have been wise on how we use our power."

"I don't think you can run foreign policy or lead a nation and be president of the United States based on what other people think of you," he added.

Hagel was asked about several issues in the news, including the kidnapping of more than 200 schoolgirls by the Boko Haram terrorist group in Nigeria, the situation in Ukraine and problems at the Veterans Affairs Department, in addition to cyber security threats, and questions regarding transgender people serving in the military.

The United States has sent a team of experts from the FBI, the intelligence community and the military to Nigeria to help authorities in the West African nation find the girls, kidnapped in the remote northeast last month.

"It's a vast country, so this is not going to be an easy task, but we're going to bear every asset we could possibly use to help the Nigerian government." However, he said the United States has no plans to put American troops on the ground.

On the crisis in Ukraine, Hagel said even though Russian President Vladimir Putin said last week that Moscow was withdrawing tens of thousands of its troops from along the border with Ukraine, Russian forces appear to be still there.

"Russia continues to isolate itself for a short-term gain," he said. "The Russians may feel they're somehow winning, but the world is not just about short term," Hagel noted.

Regarding the growing threat of cyber attacks, Hagel said the United States is paying full attention to cyber security threats, but added it's difficult to be confident.

"You can't be," he said. "The fact is, cyber security issues are as dangerous a threat as the world is dealing with, especially the United States. It's quiet, it's insidious, it's deadly."

Hagel was also asked whether department policy regarding transgender individuals serving in the military should be revisited now that gays and lesbians are allowed to serve openly. He called the issue complicated because of its medical component.

"These issues require medical attention. In austere locations where we put our men and women in many cases those military posts don't always offer that kind of opportunity," he explained.

"I do think it should continually be reviewed ... because the bottom line is every qualified American who wants to serve our country should have an opportunity, if they fit the qualifications and can do it. This is an area we've not defined enough," Hagel said.

Hagel also said he continues to support Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki amid reports that some veterans have died because they were unable to receive timely medical care through the VA system.

“There’s no one who understands accountability more than retired Army Gen. Shinseki,” Hagel said. “I do support him, but there’s no margin here.”

The Defense secretary said if these reports prove accurate, “Accountability is going to have to be upheld, because we can never let this kind of outrage, if all of this is true, stand in this country.”

But the situation didn’t start with Shinseki’s term at VA, Hagel emphasized. “This is something that should have been looked at years and years ago. Yes, we missed it.”

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4. State Department on Illegal Referenda in Eastern Ukraine (05-10-2014)

Statement by Jen Psaki, Spokesperson on the Illegal Referenda in Eastern Ukraine

As the United States has said, the referenda being planned for May 11 in portions of eastern Ukraine by armed separatist groups are illegal under Ukrainian law and are an attempt to create further division and disorder. If these referenda go forward, they will violate international law and the territorial integrity of Ukraine. The United States will not recognize the results of these illegal referenda.

In addition, we are disappointed that the Russian government has not used its influence to forestall these referenda since President Putin’s suggestion on May 7 that they be postponed, when he also claimed that Russian forces were pulling back from the Ukrainian border.

Unfortunately, we still see no Russian military movement away from the border, and today Kremlin-backed social media and news stations encouraged residents of eastern Ukraine to vote tomorrow, one even offering instructions for polling stations in Moscow. Russian state media also continue to strongly back the referenda with no mention of Putin’s call for postponement.

The focus of the international community must now be on supporting the Ukrainian government’s consistent efforts to hold a presidential election on May 25. International observers note that preparations for these elections are proceeding apace and in accordance with international standards, which will allow all Ukrainian people a voice in the future of their country. According to recent independent polls, a substantial majority of Ukrainians intend to vote on May 25. Any efforts to disrupt this democratic process will be seen clearly for what they are, attempts to deny the rights of Ukraine’s citizens to express their political will freely.

As President Obama and Chancellor Merkel stated on May 2, the Russian leadership must know that if it continues to destabilize eastern Ukraine and disrupt this month’s presidential election, we will move quickly to impose greater costs on Russia.

The Russian government can still choose to implement its Geneva commitments, as well as follow through on President Putin’s statement of May 7. We call on them to do so.

5. Hagel to Attend Middle East Defense Ministerial (05-09-2014)

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 9, 2014 – Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel will attend a regional defense meeting in Saudi Arabia next week during what will be his third trip to the Middle East since taking office.

Hagel departs for Saudi Arabia May 12 where he will take part in a U.S.-Gulf Cooperation Council defense ministerial in Jedda before going on to Jordan and Israel, Pentagon Press Secretary Navy Rear Adm. Kohn Kirby told reporters.

The trip is intended to advance America's regional strategy, and to coordinate efforts among allies and partners to address common security challenges.

The meeting with the GCC will be the first since 2008, and it will provide an important and timely opportunity for the United States to step up cooperation with Gulf nations, "as we confront common regional security challenges related to Iran, Syria, Egypt, and Iraq," Kirby said.

The ministerial is designed to strengthen multilateral security cooperation in the region and will focus on air and missile defense, maritime security and cyber defense.

"It is also an opportunity for the secretary to underscore U.S. security commitments in the Middle East and to reinforce the United States' unstinting policy of preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and further destabilizing the region," Kirby said.

Hagel will then move on to Jordan. "This visit will highlight U.S. commitment to the defense of Jordan, where more than 1,000 U.S. personnel are on the ground working closely with Jordanian defense authorities," the admiral said.

The final stop is Israel where the secretary will meet with President Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Minister of Defense Moshe Ya'alon.

"The secretary and Minister Ya'alon will discuss critical regional and bilateral security issues, including the United States and Israel's cooperation on rocket and missile defense," Kirby said.

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[DOD Press Briefing by Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby in the Pentagon Briefing Room](#)

6. Deputy Secretary Burns on U.S.-Pakistan Relations (05-09-2014)

Statement by Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns

It is a pleasure to visit Pakistan again, at an important moment in our relationship, and in the region. I am glad to have had the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Sharif, Finance Minister Dar, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar, Advisor to the Prime Minister for National Security and Foreign

Policy Sartaj Aziz, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi, Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif, and Foreign Secretary Chaudhry.

I stressed in all our discussions that President Obama remains firmly committed to our shared goal of a stable, secure, and prosperous Pakistan. And as Secretary Kerry emphasized during his visit here last August and again at the Strategic Dialogue in Washington in January of this year, he is personally committed to making that goal a reality. After some difficult years, our relationship is on a positive trajectory – a trajectory we hope to not only maintain, but accelerate.

Nowhere is our partnership making more of an impact than in supporting Pakistan's economic revival. Prime Minister Sharif and Finance Minister Dar have undertaken courageous economic reforms, and concrete steps to expand regional economic linkages, including with India. As Pakistan's partner, we will do our part to be as supportive as we can. We've already made a number of strategic investments that have contributed to Pakistan's economic growth, from funding the construction and rehabilitation of nearly 900 kilometers of roads to nearly \$900 million in energy sector assistance which will add 1400 megawatts to Pakistan's power grid by the end of 2014. And as Pakistan's continues to act on its IMF commitments, we will look to do even more. In fact, next week, our two governments will meet in Washington to discuss our joint plan to increase trade and investment over the next five years.

Militancy continues to threaten Pakistan's revival. Few countries have paid a heavier price than Pakistan in the fight against extremism. We support the Prime Minister's efforts to reestablish authority over all Pakistani territory in whatever way Pakistan deems appropriate, and especially urge him to sustain pressure on militant groups, deny them a safe-haven, and prevent cross-border attacks.

Countering cross-border militancy and shutting down safe havens is critical not only for Pakistan's long-term peace and prosperity but also for positive relations between Pakistan and all its neighbors, including Afghanistan. We appreciate Pakistan's efforts to further Afghan-led reconciliation and we remain hopeful that we will conclude a Bilateral Security Agreement later this year that will enable us to continue to train, advise, and assist Afghan forces and go after the remnants of core al-Qa'ida. This is deeply in our interest and in the interest of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the rest of South and Central Asia.

I also had the opportunity to emphasize our strong commitment to, and support for, a free and responsible press here in Pakistan and around the world.

This is a moment of opportunity for the U.S.-Pakistan relationship. We share a deep stake in continuing to strengthen the foundations of our partnership. And we share a deep commitment to putting that partnership to work to realize our shared vision of a more peaceful and prosperous Pakistan, and a more peaceful and prosperous South Asia.

7. NATO Justified in Reinforcing Allies, Secretary-General Says (05-08-2014)

Washington — NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the alliance was fully justified in reinforcing the defense of Poland and other allies in the wake of the Ukraine crisis.

“Russia's illegal and illegitimate aggression against Ukraine is the greatest challenge to Europe's security in a generation. So we have rightly reinforced the defense of our allies, including Poland,” he said at the start of his visit to Warsaw on May 7.

Rasmussen was in Poland for talks with government leaders to discuss the Ukraine crisis and preparations for the alliance's summit in Wales in September, NATO said in a May 7 press release.

"NATO's greatest responsibility is to protect and defend our populations and territory," Rasmussen said ahead of a working dinner with Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski and Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak. NATO has deployed ships and aircraft "demonstrating the alliance's vigilance and resolve, from the Baltic to the Black Sea," Rasmussen said, adding that NATO stood ready to take further steps, with enhanced exercises, updated defense plans, and appropriate deployments.

"We have sent an unmistakable message to Russia: Your behavior does not belong in the 21st century and your rhetoric draws on obscure clichés of the Cold War," Rasmussen said.

He urged Russia to de-escalate the crisis, live up to its international obligations, stop supporting separatists and pull back its troops from Ukraine's borders so that a political solution can be found. Rasmussen also said that Russia should stop undermining the May 25 presidential election in Ukraine.

On May 8, NATO said, the secretary-general was scheduled to meet with President Bronisław Komorowski and Prime Minister Donald Tusk before leaving for Tallinn, Estonia, to join NATO ambassadors in a visit to the alliance's Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence.

He was also scheduled to deliver a speech at the University of Tallinn and meet with Estonian President Toomas Ilves, Prime Minister Taavi Rõivas and Foreign Affairs Minister Urmas Paet, NATO said.

8. U.S. Announces More Exercises with East European Allies, Partners (05-08-2014)

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 8, 2014 – The United States has begun a new military exercise with Estonia amid no indication of a Russian troop pullback from its border with Ukraine.

Pentagon Spokesman Army Col. Steve Warren announced today that Exercise Spring Storm began earlier this week. At the same time, he said there has been no change in the Russian posture along the country's border with Ukraine, despite statements yesterday by President Vladimir Putin that Russian forces would pull back from the area.

Spring Storm is the latest exercise announced by the Pentagon since Russia annexed Crimea in March and is aimed at reassuring the region of NATO's resolve. Warren called the exercise with the NATO ally "the first of three annual, multinational and bilateral exercises that will occur in the Baltic region," with U.S. Special operations forces training with their Estonian counterparts.

Two more bilateral special operations exercises -- Flaming Sword and Namejs -- will be held over the next two months. More information about these exercises will become available later, Warren said.

There are 41 personnel participating in Exercise Spring Storm, officials said. Exercise Flaming Sword will involve 140 personnel.

U.S. special operations forces will also participate in a number of joint, combined exchange training events in five countries throughout the Baltic republics and Eastern Europe through the next two months. Eight countries are participating in this training -- Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United States.

The exchanges give American special operators valuable experience in the language and culture of the region and provide opportunity to hone their tactical skills with NATO allies, Warren said.

In the Black Sea, the USS Taylor, an Oliver Hazard-class destroyer, is visiting the Georgian port of Batumi today.

“While in Georgia, Taylor will conduct training with the Georgian coast guard,” Warren said.

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[Ukrainian Border Guards Get Equipment, DOD Spokesman Says](#)

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9. Amb. DiCarlo at U.N. Security Council Debate on Nonproliferation (05-07-2014)

Remarks by Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo, U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at a Security Council Open Debate on Resolution 1540 on Nonproliferation, May 7, 2014

Thank you Mr. President for your presence here today and for convening this important debate. And thank you, Deputy Secretary Eliasson, for your informative briefing.

My government is pleased to join in commemorating the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and in adopting a Presidential Statement regarding our continued commitment to the goals of that landmark measure.

Over the past year, we have been reminded of the horror that can result when weapons of mass destruction are used. Resolution 1540 was designed to minimize that possibility through concerted international action to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological arms and their means of delivery, especially to non-state actors, including terrorists.

In 2004, working with many of you, my government crafted a resolution specifying some two hundred technical and legal obligations every state should undertake to make proliferation riskier for those who attempt it and easier to detect and stop when they do.

Since Resolution 1540 was adopted, the 1540 Committee has identified hundreds of additional measures States on every continent have taken to prohibit WMD proliferation activities, secure sensitive related materials, and combat illicit trafficking of such items in response to the obligations the resolution created. Fifteen international organizations and almost four dozen countries, including my own, have registered as “assistance providers.” When a country, in order to meet its obligations, requests help, we are prepared to provide it. Regional groups – such as the AU, EU, OAS, and OSCE have incorporated elements of the resolution into their mandates and daily work.

Nonproliferation has also become a major goal for civil society. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon remarked last week, the resolution has become a “key component of the global security architecture.”

Accordingly, I commend the efforts of the Council's 1540 Committee including its current and highly effective chair, the Republic of Korea. Since its creation, the committee has done an excellent job of coordinating the global effort to implement this vital resolution.

Looking ahead, we know that there remains much more that we can and must do. Stopping the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons is not one of those fields where a "pretty good" record is enough. The potential consequences of failure anywhere and at any time could be catastrophic.

Recognizing this challenge, President Obama established the Nuclear Security Summit process. During the third Summit in March in the Hague, over 30 countries produced a joint statement calling for full global implementation of the nuclear security elements of Resolution 1540 prior to the Council's next comprehensive review in 2016, a welcome sign that global vigilance is high and that we are determined to work cooperatively to protect our citizens.

The imperative now is to continue moving forward with the tasks outlined a decade ago. Each state must identify its own vulnerabilities and gaps in implementation. Each must develop a plan for next steps based on a clear sense of priorities for action. Any state that lacks the capacity to take needed measures should request help. States and organizations that are in the position to assist should do so. Everyone involved should be open to sharing useful information on a timely basis.

The United States is committed to doing its part. As shown in its most recent report to the 1540 Committee, my government meets or exceeds international standards in implementing all of its obligations. The report documents dozens of measures taken since 2004 that are designed to implement the resolution's goals.

On the financial side, the United States has contributed \$4.5 million to the UN trust fund to support Resolution 1540. This is in addition to numerous bilateral aid projects. We have also emphasized the importance of helping states to draft effective laws to criminalize and prosecute activities that enable proliferation to take place. We are pleased that the 1540 Committee has begun working with parliamentarians, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to organize this assistance.

Mr. President, the widespread availability of information is a defining characteristic of our age. There are many benefits to this, but one of the dangers is that people who wish to inflict great harm on others have access to the knowledge that would allow them to do so. This is especially the case with respect to biological agents which are often able to reproduce themselves, meaning that a proliferator need only acquire a small amount of a pathogen to pose a large risk. For this reason, my government proposes that special emphasis be placed on improving the design of national and global approaches to the problem of bio-security, and one way to do so is to promote the Global Health Security Agenda.

We recognize that terrorists and other proliferators will employ new technologies and methods to gain access to prohibited materials and to avoid detection in transporting and possibly using them. In response, we cannot afford to be complacent. A security system that was adequate five years ago may not be sufficient now; and today's good system may be obsolete within a few years.

In closing, Mr. President, I emphasize the global nature of the threat addressed by Resolution 1540. This includes chemical weapons of the type so ruthlessly deployed against civilians in Syria; toxins sent through the mail in the United States; the complicity of some governments in proliferation, including that of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and the knowledge that terrorist and

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militant groups in many parts of the world have actively sought to acquire the means to produce WMD. With this threat always before us, we must proceed with renewed vigor to implement Resolution 1540 fully, cooperatively, and urgently. Thank you.
